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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,517	02/28/2002	Kenji Inose	SONYJP-150	5399

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LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK
600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

EXAMINER

AGHDAM, FRESHTEH N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	

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11/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/980,517	Applicant(s) INOSE ET AL.
Examiner Freshteh N. Aghdam	Art Unit 2611*

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 7-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hite et al (US 5,805,974), further in view of THE AUTHORITATIVE DICTIONARY OF IEEE STANDARDS TERMS, 7th Edition and Horisawa (EP 0966157).

As to claims 1 and 6, Hite discloses a receiving apparatus comprising a signal processing means that includes a tuner for receiving and a demodulator for demodulating a signal delivered over at least a particular one of the plurality of different transmission mediums (Fig. 5, means 506, 512, 538, and 542), said processing means inherently is associated with the particular one of the plurality of different kinds of transmission media and which includes a control input (Fig. 5, means 544; Col. 2, lines 11-18); a main control means, compatible with each one of the plurality of different kinds of transmission mediums (Col. 2, lines 11-18), for indirectly controlling said signal processing means based on the request (means 590 and 508) by generating and

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outputting a control command via means 582 based on the request by interpreting the request signal as a key code value corresponding to the key input from the remote controller 584; therefore, using a predefined command set (i.e. outputted by means 590) that is independent of the plurality of different kinds of transmission mediums, a reception zone where said receiving and demodulating means is used, and the hardware structure of said signal processing means because Hite discloses that the remote control signals are infra-red but other transmission mediums such as radio frequency signal and even voice commands can be used (Col. 10, Lines 60-67); transmitting the control command to said receiving and demodulating means using the predefined command set defined by a common communication instructions (e.g. pressing number 12 key by the viewer is interpreted as changing channel to channel 12 or pressing a key that belongs to another transmission media such as DBS (direct broadcasting satellite), which is common in at least the TV systems that are built utilizing Hite's invention; Col. 11, Lines 1-8); a process control means (means 550) for receiving outputted control command for reading out an associated one of plurality of stored control programs (i.e. there are a plurality of control programs that are stored in the microcontroller, in which they control different components in the receiver in response to the outputted command from the remote control receiver 590) in response to the received control command and converting the associated control program into control data that is recognizable by the signal processing means, which is in accordance with the particular one of the plurality of different kinds of transmission media (by issuing the appropriate instruction to the tuner (means 508, 544, and 550);

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and said signal processing means processing the received signal based on the received control data via means 544. Hite is not explicit about an interface means for receiving the control command from the main control means and for outputting the control command; and said signal processing means having a hardware structure associated with the particular one of the plurality of transmission media. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that utilization of an interface to output the control command is well known in the art since interface is a shared boundary that specifies the interconnection between two units or systems and connection means 582 provides a connection between the generated control command in the remote control receiver 590 and the microcontroller 550; therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize an interface means to specify the interconnection between unit 590 and unit 550 of Hite. The definition of an interface is provided by (THE AUTHORITATIVE DICTIONARY OF IEEE STANDARDS TERMS, 7th Edition; Pg. 575, Col. 1, No. 23). Horisawa discloses that the signal processing means (e.g. front-end receiver) includes a hardware associated with the particular one of the plurality of transmission media, which includes a control input (par. 11, 33, 46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a hardware structure for the particular one of plurality of different kinds of transmission media as taught by Horisawa in order to cope with variety of different transmission media (Par. 5-7).

As to claim 2, Hite discloses that the associated control program is independent of the particular one of the plurality of transmission media since when there is only one

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transmission medium then the main control means is not dependent on the type of transmission medium.

As to claim 3, Hite discloses that the associated control program is independent of the reception zone since the reception zone 502 does not have anything to do with the associated control programs stored in the microcontroller 550.

As to claim 4, Hite discloses all the subject matter claimed in claim 1, except for the main control means includes transferring means whereby the control command is transmitted to the receiving and demodulating means over a bus. However, according to THE AUTHORITATIVE DICTIONARY OF IEEE STANDARDS TERMS, 7th Edition, system bus is utilized to transfer signal or information and is defined as a shared boundary between two or more systems, or between two or more elements within a system, through which information is conveyed (Pg. 574, Col. 2, No. 10-11). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a bus means to transfer information from one unit to another unit.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hite et al (US 5,805,974) and THE AUTHORITATIVE DICTIONARY OF IEEE STANDARDS TERMS, 7th Edition, further in view of Na et al (US 6,366,731).

As to claim 5, Hite discloses all the subject matter claimed in claim 1, except for the bus is an IEEE 1394 serial bus. Na discloses utilizing IEEE 1394 serial bus to transfer information (Col. 1, Lines 6-29). One of the primary advantages of the protocols such as Universal Serial BUS such as IEEE 1394 serial bus is the ability to handle a

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high data transfer rate. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Na with Hite and THE AUTHORITATIVE DICTIONARY OF IEEE STANDARDS TERMS for the reason stated above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-10 are allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Freshteh N. Aghdam whose telephone number is 571-272-6037. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chieh Fan can be reached on 571-272-3042. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Freshteh Aghdam
Examiner
Art Unit 2611

November 2, 2007


CHIEH M. FAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER